

## City of Austin Evaluation of HQL Recommendations Implementation Dependent upon Council Action

### YOUTH SERVICES

I selected a list of HQL Recommendation's evaluated by the City of Austin within the area of YOUTH SERVICES. In order to begin the process of prioritizing recommendations, I met with the HQL Oversight Team Contact, Susana Almanza.

I would recommend that in order to proceed with making recommendations under the HQL priorities, it would be helpful to have more time to speak to the other staff contacts provided by the BD staff in order to be more informed on youth services. I spoke to Stephanie Hayden (Manager, Family & Youth Services, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department) who suggested that I obtain information on youth services in Austin from, among others, (a) the Ready by 21 Coalition of Central Texas, a collaborative group of youth service providers, educators, government agency representatives and community stakeholders, which serves as the Youth Issue Area Group for CAN (formerly Community Action Network), (b) Success By 6, a United Way for Greater Austin program which gives working poor families access to high-quality child care, parent education services and mental health care, and (c) the City of Austin's Early Childhood Council, which develops recommendations to council on programs and activities that contribute to the continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education and after-school programs for Austin's children.

I suggest that we use consistent criteria in the priority selection process, such those proposed by Frank Rodriguez in his memo of April 23, 2014 (in particular, the Equality Index) and other criteria which Emilio Zamora will be suggesting to the HQL Commission (discussed briefly at the last HQL meeting).

In the meantime, here are notes from my meeting with Susana Almanza which may be helpful in the selection process. The City's recommendations as a whole are responsive to the HQL Initiative recommendations. Additional recommendations are included below.

### EMPLOYMENT—YOUTH

Department	HQL CO Recommendation	Notes from meeting with the HQL Oversight Team Contact
HR	(Pg.30) The creation of a Citywide Youth Employment/Internship Office would provide outreach for employment opportunities.	
HR	(Pg. 30) Provide adequate funding to establish paid internships in various City departments throughout the year. [for students]	It is recommended that paid internships slotted for college students provide a pathway for integration into City of Austin jobs.

HR	(Pg. 30) Look into possibly including into contracts with non-profits summer jobs/paid internship placement for youth.	It is recommended that in addition to contracts with City of Austin, that summer jobs/paid internships be extended to other non-profits, such as Resistencia Bookstore.
HR	(Pg. 30) Target low-income youth for employment and internship opportunities that pay a living wage.	

## CHILD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT

### YOUTH—Leadership/Development

Department	HQL CO Recommendation	Notes from meeting with the HQL Oversight Team Contact
HR (Youth and Family Services)	(Pg.29) Encourage coordination and facilitation of Community-Based Leadership that would support both Youth Leadership Programs and Restorative Circles.	A recommendation is to implement this proposal by incorporating non-profits, such as Resistencia Bookstore and the Red Salmon Arts Save Our Youth (SOY) Program.
PARD	(Pg.27) Create and/or enhance youth art, music, writing, theatre, dance and performing classes at recreation centers and look into offering music production and business workshops as means for youth development. The current enrichment component of the Recreation Center After School programs includes an arts component. This program is one that could be expanded to be offered as a stand-alone class and offered in low-income areas.	Funding is needed for contracts with community groups to provide these services.
PARD	(Pg. 28) Work to incorporate more co-ed sports (such as volleyball, kickball, etc.) into current program offerings and implement more organized activities for Hispanic females.	It is necessary to clarify here whether HHS is proposing to do this on PARD facilities. It is recommended that this be put on the <u>health</u> budget.

PARC	(Pg.27) Expand the number of computer labs at recreation centers and offer more classes like the Connected Youth program at the Austin Public Library that teach basic skills that can help youth secure gainful employment. The City will begin the Roving Leaders program, which will include a portable computer lab that will serve the areas with the highest need. If the program proves to be successful, the City should look at expansion of the program to impact more children.	Providing roving computer labs is not adequate. It is necessary  (a) that services be provided at established locations/buildings, and  (b) that all computer labs provide Internet connections, as currently some locations do not.
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## CHILDREN – Services birth through early childhood

Department	HQL CO Recommendation	Notes from meeting with the HQL Oversight Team Contact
HHSD	(Pg. 80) Fund and implement a Prenatal through Pre-Kindergarten continuum program to allow for consistent education delivery to children most in need.	It is suggested that this recommendation be integrated with <u>education policy</u> .
HHSD	(Pg. 80) Develop comprehensive prenatal health policy.	It is suggested that this recommendation be integrated with <u>health policy</u> .

## YOUTH—Homelessness

Department	HQL CO Recommendation	Notes from meeting with the HQL Oversight Team Contact
HHSD	(Pg.29) The City needs to collaborate with local ISDs to develop strategies and programs aimed at reducing the number of homeless youth and those suffering from student mobility each year.	In order to reduce the number of homeless youth, a key aspect of this recommendation is to increase <u>housing</u> , specifically making families a priority for housing, in addition to single adults.